

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 615

By Roller

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Gary Flandro upon his naming as a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as leaders within their fields; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. Gary Flandro, who was recently named as a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), an honored tribute wholly befitting of his contributions to the fields of aeronautics and astronautics; and

WHEREAS, employed at the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) in Tullahoma, Dr. Flandro has dedicated his life and career to his field, and his dedication was recently commemorated by the AIAA and its Board of Directors when they chose him as one of thirty individuals to receive the title of Fellow; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Flandro will formally receive his title of Fellow at the Aerospace Spotlight Awards Gala on May 13, 2008, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that he should be named as a Fellow, for his work has supported decades of space flights and led to successful missions to the outer planets; in the summer of 1964, Dr. Flandro discovered the rare alignment of the outer planets, which enabled him to envision the Grand Tour multi-planet mission utilizing the gravity assist method; and

WHEREAS, his development of the gravity assist method enabled the reduction of the flight duration from forty years to less than ten, a significant change which directly influenced the highly successful Voyager missions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Flandro also committed himself to research work with solid rocket motors; this research led him to a practical solution of a problem which had been plaguing the field for years; and

WHEREAS, his research continues to have a great impact on solar system exploration, as the Galileo and Cassini missions, satellite tours of Jupiter and Saturn, respectively, were made possible by his work on the gravity assist method; and

WHEREAS, his work will continue to inform and impact future missions, as shown by the New Horizons mission, launched in January of 2006 and expected to reach Pluto in 2015; the missions trajectories were based on work he completed in 1965 on gravity assist trajectories to the far-flung outpost; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Flandro was also recognized by the British Interplanetary Society, which bestowed upon him the Golovine Award in 1970, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which awarded him an Exceptional Achievement Medal in 1998 “for seminal contributions to the design and engineering of multi-outer-planet missions, including the Grand Tour opportunity for the epic Voyager explorations;” and

WHEREAS, after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Utah in 1957, Dr. Flandro attained a Master's degree in Aeronautics from the California Institute of Technology (Cal Tech) in 1960 and his doctorate from Cal Tech in 1967; and

WHEREAS, he joined UTSI in 1991, since which time he has held the Boling Chair of Excellence in Space Propulsion; and

WHEREAS, his work in the field is extensive, as evidenced by the seventy-five conference papers he has authored or co-authored; in addition, Dr. Flandro has written or co-authored forty-four refereed papers, four books, and two book chapters; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Flandro epitomizes the spirit and commitment to purpose that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, he is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Linnea; the couple have two sons, Troy and Tom; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Flandro for his sterling work within the field of aeronautics and astronautics; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Gary Flandro upon his reception of Fellowship from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, applaud his many years of service to the space industry and his dedication to expanding the scope of human knowledge, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.